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SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS/IAEA: EVALUATING THE CSC, NO POSITION

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11. (SBU) EconOff met June 11 with Michel Deelen, Deputy Head, Environment and Nuclear Safety Division, and Hendrik Koets, Advisor, Economic and Environmental Affairs Department, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) to follow up on reftel demarche. Deelen and Koets said the Dutch position regarding the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage (CSC) has not been established. They said the Dutch government is now studying the CSC issue, which Koets termed as "rather new" to them but "definitely interesting".

12. (SBU) Deelen and Koets expressed surprise at the sudden emergence of the CSC as a high-priority issue for the U.S. government. They said the Netherlands was "quite happy" with the nuclear liability coverage provided by the Vienna and Paris Conventions. That said, Deelen explained that the U.S. demarche had spurred the Dutch to reevaluate the CSC. He said that MFA, Ministry of Finance, and Ministry of Economic Affairs will all have key stakes in the policy discussions about the CSC he expects will begin soon. (Note: Deelen and Koets admitted there is uncertainty as to which ministry is ultimately responsible for nuclear liability issues. End note.) Deelen could not speculate at this stage about the prospects for Dutch ratification of the CSC. Post will follow up and report as the Dutch move forward on the CSC.

Gallagher